

NOTE.—Fill in the above carefully and mail at once.

MAKE EVERY SOCIALIST VOTER AN AMERICAN SOCIALIST READER

READ THIS LETTER.

Readers of this column will remember that several weeks ago we told about receiving an order from one of our husters to send bundles of The American Socialist to a list of postmasters. Our huster said the postmasters would pass the copies out to the patrons of their postoffices. That was the first time we had ever heard of a United States postmaster passing out Socialist literature as part of his work. We found that just as soon as postmasters got within hailing distance of Socialism they usually lost their jobs. So we wrote our huster asking how he had persuaded postmasters to distribute The American Socialist. The reply, leaving out the name of our energetic worker and his address, for fear that Washington might put its secret service men on the job, is as follows:

***** Feb. 1, 1916.

"J. L. Engdahl,
"Editor, The American Socialist.
"Dear Comrade:

"In a recent letter referring to this local order for bundles of The American Socialist, you asked me to direct postmasters for distribution by them, you ask, 'How do you do it?'"

"Perfectly easy. Wrote some of them a personal letter asking them to circulate anti-militaristic and Socialist papers and leaflets, and requesting them to reply giving number they could use."

"Others were approached in an indirect way. They all admit (every one does) the Socialists are doing lots of good by their agitation for better conditions, etc. After they have made that admission they can't well refuse to pass out matter to those of their patrons who will read it."

"The addresses I sent you are all inland postoffices; off the railroad. None of them defend the Socialist philosophy. Some are bitterly opposed. We aim to extend this idea to include the thrifty road towns in this country—in fact the enclosed order includes one of them."

"Yours in the fight,
"*****"

Now what do you think of that! It ought to be enough to make the cringing tools of the plutocrats at the head of the postal department in Washington howl their heads off. The second order we received was for bundles of the special two-page edition containing Meyer London's speech in congress exposing the world-crime of preparedness, militarism and war.

If you can't get your postmaster to distribute this special edition, you can distribute them yourself, or send in your list of names, according to our offer on Page One, and we will send the papers out for you. At the same time do not forget to make use of the "Ten Weeks for Ten Cents in Clubs of Ten 'Sub Blank'" at the bottom of this page.

ROLL OF HONOR

Comrade Thomas A. Young, Johnston, Pa., has been on the sick list for some time, but he has recovered and celebrated by sending in a list of six subs.

Another list of six comes from Comrade Robert Dams, of Huntington-station, New York.

Comrade Charles D. Roberts sends in a club of four from Bath, Maine, wishing The American Socialist every success.

W. H. A. Williams of Roseburg, Ore., sends in two subs and orders six cards which he intends to make good use of.

"I cannot get along without my 'American Socialist'! I expect to send in a large club of subs soon," writes Comrade Fred Schumacher, of Trenton, N. J., orders four subs cards to help keep the circulation of The American Socialist growing, he says, "I would like it to grow bigger still!"

John O. Shaffer, of Mounds, Ill., sends in a list of seven and gets one of our souvenir Socialist pennants.

Comrade William Koenig sends in a list of eight from Milwaukee. This is followed by a list of eight from Reuben Schein, of Philadelphia.

Comrade W. B. Easterly, of Twin Falls, Idaho, comes right back with another order for 12 more sub cards.

Comrade George Graham, of Granite, Oregon, renews for another year declaring, "The last issue was a hummer. Keep up with the good work. Your three million votes next November."

"Yours for Success," is the way Edward

Henry Dubb Fights For The Home



G. Pattison, of Staples, Minn., signs himself as he orders a bunch of sub cards. He writes, "You are putting out a good paper and we should have a way to have all dues paying members, subscribers to the party paper."

Lecher W. Frisby, of Terre Haute, Ind., sends in a list of 15 and we are sending him in return one of our beautiful souvenir knives.

Another knife goes to Comrade C. H. Becker, of Fort Wayne, Ind. This is a second for Indiana this week. Comrade W. F. Eaton reports for Pennsylvania with 16 subs and also gets a knife.

Comrade C. T. Stoner, editor of The Inter-Mountain Worker, at Salt Lake City, Utah, sends in nine combination subs, the kind that subscribe for The American Socialist for one year at 50 cents and get the "Socialist Party Campaign Book" free. Send in a list of recs subs at 50 cents a year and get campaign books as premiums. The campaign books are great pullers for subs.

Comrade C. I. Cornwall, of Berkeley, Cal., sends in a list of 10 subs to get the paper for 10 weeks.

We are glad to report again this week that Otto Vierling, state secretary for Missouri, has sent in another order for 25 sub cards. The Missouri state office of the Socialist Party is showing other state organizations what can be done.

We have just received a letter from Comrade A. D. Endler, of Chattanooga, Okla., reading as follows: "I found four eager-to-learn pupils in my little burg one lesson each of them The American Socialist, in which they will find the most interesting and complete victory in 1916 over all obstacles, discouragement and defeat. I am often beset in our struggle for right against wrong." Fine sentiment, isn't it, comrade?"

This from Comrade W. S. Baker, of Minnesota, Texas: "As my time is nearly out I want to renew; don't want to let go of I am an old man—been a Socialist all my life. Didn't know it until eight years ago. Doing all I can to make the noble cause."

Send us this from Comrade Emmet M. Davidson, of Decatur, Ark.: "The dawn of Socialism has appeared in Arkansas. It has been in the hearts of the people since the democratic party in this state. Everybody is talking about 'preparedness'. I am sending in five democratic subs for The American Socialist."

"You are certainly publishing a fine paper and all new news in good work and victory is ours in the near future," writes Comrade J. R. Drake, of Ventura, Cal., in five democratic subs for The American Socialist."

For the first time in the history of the Socialist meetings held in Broad Street Theater the speaker was called by the audience, after the speech, to reappear on the stage in response to a great ovation given him in Philadelphia. Cornelius Lehane was so honored; 2500 people cheered him to the echo when he had delivered his inspiring message. Of even greater consequence to the Party was the fact that for the first time in years people after the meeting came up to the party headquarters to be enrolled in the party organization. That's why Lehane is being brought back again to Philadelphia. He will speak on Feb. 20th at the Broad Street Theater, at 3 p.m. The collection at the Cornelius Lehane meeting, under auspices Philadelphia Socialist Literary Society, was over \$100, a record in local collections. Lehane's inspiring address has heartened the Philadelphia comrades to greater efforts in organization. Another feature of Sunday's meeting was the fact that the audience gave to Lehane the time usually allotted to questions. They didn't want to ask questions. They just wanted Lehane to keep on with his speech.

LEHANE TOUR.

Under auspices of National Executive Committee of the Socialist Party, Comrade Cornelius Lehane will speak for the following Ohio locals:

Youngstown, Feb. 22; Niles, Feb. 23; Warren, Feb. 27; Bucyrus, Feb. 28; Dayton, Feb. 29; Cincinnati, March 1. Feb. 23, 24 and 25 are as yet open dates and applications for the tour should be directed to the National Secretary, 803 West Madison St., Chicago, Ill.

Letters from "American Socialist" Readers

RULES FOR THIS DEPARTMENT.

The National Committee of the Socialist Party in providing for an Open Forum in The American Socialist ruled that: "Recommendation No. 6.—An open forum to contain communications from party members or organizations on disputed points of party policy, certain and tactics. No personal attacks or abuse or intemperate language shall be allowed. No communication in the Open Forum shall exceed 500 words."

Contributors to this department will facilitate matters considerably by carefully observing this rule.

THE "GREAT MAN" THEORY.

My first lesson in socialism taught me to understand what a vital force economic determinism was as a motive of human and social conduct. Next I was taught that great events in history have their foundation in economic causes. I was taught to disregard the "great man" theory, to ignore the prevalent idea that great men instead of fundamental causes were responsible for social and economic conditions. And now brethren of the Socialist party, I must confess that my belief in economic determinism has been shaken and it is hard now to read history again in the fascinating light of its economic interpretation.

What caused this sudden loss of faith in socialist doctrine? Nothing else but the perusal of some letters that have appeared in the American Socialist recently discussing the election of executive secretary. And reading such letters, to which, by the way, were appended signatures of socialists no longer in the amateur class. And now I see letters written by the economic determinists of the Socialist party, and I am left with the feeling that the "great man" theory is not dead, but is being revived.

And in this case one individual is being blamed for everything that has transpired in the party in the last two years. Thus in the discussion of the election of executive secretary, the one of all causes responsible for the apathy in the movement, he alone, we are told, is responsible for the reaction that set in. And the one who did it yet, I think the logical thing to do is to blame Comrade Lanfersiek for the reaction in Europe, for the Mexican situation, for the hard times, for the preparedness campaign and for everything else that seems wrong.

I for one think it nothing less than sheer insanity to make a change in the National Office now when we are in the midst of the election of executive secretary. Let's back Comrade Lanfersiek with a good strong Executive Committee and we will have results.—J. RA-PHAELSON, Newport, Ky.

THE ZIMMERWALD CONFERENCE.

While away from home I notice a resolution adopted, and sent to Socialist Papers by Branch One of Portland, Ore., and a German Branch of Cincinnati, wherein Comrade Seidel and I are denounced for voting against the Zimmerwald Conference, and the suggestion is made that we are Nationalists. May I ask space for this reply? Comrade Seidel is able to speak for himself. For myself whether I am re-elected or defeated for the N. E. C. is immaterial. I neither seek it, nor I run away from its responsibilities. However, I cannot but regret that these comrades did not first ask me for my reasons for voting "No" on the motion referred to.

The reason was simply that on a previous motion relating to a Peace Manifesto, certain of the German comrades, the National Executive Committee had reversed the N. E. C., and virtually ruled that the N. E. C. had no authority to speak for the Party on such matters. That ruling having been made, as a member of the N. E. C. I bowed to it and voted "No".

If it will be of any particular interest to the comrades, I will say, the only division that I recognize is along class lines. To me there are two kinds of people, viz: the exploited and the exploiters. I will say further that I had been in the German Reichstag I would not have voted for the war credits, because what I conceive to be my duty as a Socialist would have prevented me. But, while that is true, I refuse to join in the chorus of noisy denunciation aimed at the German comrades, or the French or any other nationality. The working class of the world, or of any nationality, can learn only by its own mistakes. Already there are indications that the German movement is swinging steadily to the position of the minority, not because of what we think or say, but because circumstances are compelling them to see there can be no identity of interests between Master and Subject, and that the only hope of the working class is to stick to its task, allowing the masters to do their own dirty work whether in Parliament or the trenches. Let me say to the comrades, if you consider that the work of the American National Executive Committee is to settle problems of the Comrades abroad, that is your right. I, how-

ever, feel that our first task should be to bend all our energies to an aggressive campaign of education and organization at home, and that the time of testing the Socialist Party of America shall be found standing four square. If we can do this, we shall have rendered the working class of the world a greater service than by all the advice or criticism we can give the comrades abroad. Let's not resolve and go to work to do OUR part to make the International a reality instead of a text.—GEORGE H. GOEBEL, Newark, N. J.

VIEWS OF A VIRGINIAN.

It seems a pity that, of all the Socialists voted for in the Referendum Primary to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee and a presidential ticket, there should be such a small number who would accept nominations. There are only two candidates, e. g. for the vice-presidency any one of them, Mr. O'Hara is or would be ineligible under the constitution, if elected. Would it not be wiser to wait until national suffrage is an accomplished fact before nominating a woman for any office which she could not constitutionally hold? Otherwise, there is no objection to Mrs. O'Hara.

No, never drop the Party Organization to keep up with "the movement". Without organization and strict party rules there would soon be traitors in camp ready to "sell us out" and betray the "movement" to the world with the old Populist party because they had no system of checks to expel unfaithful leaders. Let us extend the Party Organization and Correspondence Schools could still be established to supplement the work of the "organization" of the Socialist party, and to rush the "movement" along.

We think the machinery of the Party Organization with its methods might be improved, since man's work is evolutionary towards perfection—or should be. Possibly some system of party discipline, whereby the nominations for candidates and committeemen could be less scattered, and also result in fewer refusals to accept nominations when made.

There is one point in connection with the several papers of nominations as they appear in The American Socialist, which should not be overlooked. It shows that when the people are really given a voice in the affairs of party management that they will "go to the polls". To the "dumb driven cattle" of the two old parties ruled absolutely by the party machinery, the party referendum primary shows how the Socialists are the true democrats in party management; and that if the workers—agricultural and industrial—want to help make this a government of, for and by the people (which it must be), they must join the Socialist party and help the "movement" for the emancipation of labor. Socialists should continually quiz their old party associates and friends.

"What party or power or influence have you in the management of your party?" (which is the real question) "What party machinery, the naming of candidates and the adoption of platforms?" Of course it is practically NIL.

One aim the Socialists should keep in view is to corral the farmer vote. The farmer gets too little for his produce, and the industrial worker pays too much for them as a consumer. Socialism, not capitalism will ever right this inequality and injustice.

Was it not Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, who recently said there might be a war in this country some day to prevent the Soviets from resting control of the government? Well, let's accept the gauntlet by working all the harder for Socialist principles. Up with the flag of justice—the flag of Socialism for all.—COMRADE, Campbell County, Va.

EXECUTIVE DEPT.

WALTER LANFERSIEK, Secretary

National Executive Committee:

JAMES H. MAURER, 1855 N. 11th St., Reading, Pa.

ADOLPH GERMER, Mount Olive, Ill.

GEORGE H. GOEBEL, 14 Bridge St., Newark, N. J.

EMIL SEIDEL, 1154 Twentieth St., Milwaukee, Wis.

ARTHUR LE SUEUR, Fort Scott, Kans.

Address all communications to The Executive Committee, 803 West Madison St., Chicago. Address all mail to departments and not to individuals. Make remittances payable to the Socialist Party.

Matter for publication in the official columns of The American Socialist must be in file in the National Office by the Monday preceding the date of issue.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Second to Referend.

Received Since Last Publication.

BY BATTIE CRITCH, MINN. (Proposing that the National Executive Committee constitute the National Campaign Committee and that the Information Department be continued under the direction of the Executive Secretary. First published, Dec. 26, 1915. Second by: Fort Pierce, Fla.

BY OMAHA, NEBR. (Proposing that each applicant for admission to the Socialist party shall pay 25 cents over and above the regular cost of initiation for subscription to The American Socialist. First published, Dec. 26, 1915. Second by: Finnish Br., San Francisco, Cal.; Finnish Br., Lansville, Mass.; Greensburg, Ind.

BY JEWISH BR., DOWN TOWN, NEW YORK CITY. (Proposing an amendment of the Zimmerwald Manifesto. First published, Jan. 1, 1916. Second by: Finnish Branches of Springfield, Mass., and New York City, N. Y.

BY LETHBRIDGE, MINN. (Proposing that the party be expelled from the party because of unsocialistic proposals. First published, Dec. 26, 1915. Second by: Finnish, Hoquiam, Wash.; Finnish, Hanna, Wyo.; English Br., Spokane, Wash.; Alexandria Co., Va.; Lettish Br., Bronx, N. Y.

BY ELIZABETH AND HUNTINGTON, W. A. (Providing that anyone guilty of advocating military action be expelled from the party. First published, Jan. 1, 1916. Second by: Finnish Branches of Springfield, Mass., and New York City, N. Y.

BY LETHBRIDGE, MINN. (Proposing that the party be expelled from the party because of unsocialistic proposals. First published, Dec. 26, 1915. Second by: Finnish, Hoquiam, Wash.; Finnish, Hanna, Wyo.; English Br., Spokane, Wash.; Alexandria Co., Va.; Lettish Br., Bronx, N. Y.

BY ATTICA, IND. (Proposing anti-war action for the national platform of 1916. First published, Jan. 29, 1916. Second by: Fort Pierce, Fla.; Des Moines, Ia.; Ottumwa, Ia.; Chicago, Ill.; Tulsa, Okla.; Mullan, Ind.; Columbus, O.

BY WICHITA, KANS. (Proposing a quarterly assessment of 25c for the purpose of building a national headquarters and printing plant. First published, Feb. 6, 1916. Second by: Des Moines, Ia.; Ottumwa, Ia.; Canton, Ill.; Columbus, O.; Ottumwa, Ia.; York, Neb.

BY COLUMBUS, KANS. (Proposing to amend the National Constitution by striking out Section 3 of Article X. First published, Feb. 12, 1916. Second by: Wyandotte Co., Kans.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE BUSINESS.

Report on National Committee Motion No. 1.

"That alternative 'C' be adopted, and submitted for referendum of the party membership on the question of holding or not holding a national convention in 1916."

Comment.

SINCLAIR: "I cannot see where it is necessary if National Referendum 'C' propositions 1 and 2 carry."

SADLER: "Referendum having carried, I cannot vote."

KATTERFELD: "It is too late to do any good."

Voting Yes.

McKee, Richmond, Wk., Steadman, Roemer, Whaley, Newson, Stie for the purpose of the National Committee.

Stark voted in favor of Proposition No. 2. Heav and Revell voted in favor of Proposition No. 3.

Tiller voted in favor of Proposition No. 4.

Not Voting.

Finke, Griffith, Nelson, Clark, Brewer, Jones, Norveta, Kercher, Artund, Hillquit, Lunn, LeSueur, Holt, Maurer, Allen, Slayton, McCullin, Irwin, Richards, Garver, Duncan, Mehrens, Goebel, Demarest, Boudin, Rutenber, Simms, Hutton, Streiff, Carterfeld, Berger, Total, 24.

Motion Lost.

On account of the reduction in membership, New Jersey is entitled to only one vote on the National Committee. The State Secretary for New Jersey was notified Jan. 15th of this fact, but two votes have been sent in. In this case, neither vote should be counted, but they have been listed nevertheless.

Fraternally submitted,

Walter Lanfersiek, Executive Secretary.

EXECUTIVE COM. CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Executive Committee.

Dear Comrade: I submit for vote of your committee, the following

National Executive Committee Motion "C"
